Off on the road again...

Well, the bad news is... But unlike the recently-campaigning political parties, we believe in accentuating the positive, so see below for the traditional minor irritants.

The good news is that we are staying on track for the *best* British science fiction convention of 1993. As ever, we'll be focusing on written science fiction. Four successful Mexicons prove that the original idea of a convention which brings you the ideas and the people currently shaking up the genre and fandom, cutting out the fringe distractions, was a winner—and Mexicon 5 will be no exception. If you're a regular, you'll know that already: if you've never been, just trust us.

Mexicons aim to be small enough to have a friendly, community, atmosphere, but big enough to present a diversity of views and styles, on the platform, in the audience and (naturally) in the bar. (Last year's membership total, 369.) Participation is the keynote, so *your* presence matters.

Our programming committee is hard at work contacting potential guests; and you know that our guests are never just any old guests. We're the folks who brought you **Alasdair Gray, Iain Banks, Bill Gibson** and, last year, **Howard Waldrop**, so watch this space. Our motto this time is **'Kicking over the traces'**, and with **Eve Harvey** running fan things, and **Linda Krawecke** on a special assignment to cause fun, this theme will spill over from the main programme into every minute of the convention.

As our first Chairman, **Kevin Williams**, said in 1984: 'All we ask of you is to: relax, look, listen, shout, wave your arms, argue, yell, participate, cheer, jeer, squeal, bark, hoot and even whoop (if you must).' Do it now. After all, after these grim recessionary days we've all been living through, not to mention a whole month with nothing on TV but opinion polls, you'll want to get into training for Mexicon 5!

So that's the rallying call over. Now for the practical bits:

Registration: £18.00, to 121 Cape Hill, Smethwick, Warley, West Midlands, B66 4SH; or pay at Illumination.

Date: 28-31 May 1993.

Committee: Mike Ford (co-ordinator and moneykeeper); **Colin Harris, Maureen Speller, Mary Gentle** (programming); **Bernie Evans** (memberships); **Abi Frost** (PRs); **Eve Harvey** (fannish matters); **John Harvey** (ops and other official arranging); **Linda Strickler** (hotel liaison); **Nic Farey** (technical things); **Linda Krawecke** (i/c having fun).

And now for something all too familiar...

Yes, we have no cantina!

You may have heard through the usual channels that we are once again seeking a new venue. To cut a long story short, changes at the Cairn Hotel make it impossible to continue. But are we downhearted? No! We've been in this spot before, and come out with flying colours. And with the organisational and negotiating skills of **Linda Strickler** and **Mike Ford** on the strength, we are confident that good news will soon drive out bad. Mike and Linda are currently talking to a number of potential venues in the north of England, and when they reach a firm agreement, you will be the first to know. As before, we'll be sympathetic to any registered members who can't fit in with whatever new arrangement is announced. So join up now!

Mexicon 5: you'll just have to be there. Wherever it may be.

Mexicon 5: 121 Cape Hill, Smethwick, Warley, West Midlands, B66 4SH